GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3140
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
MOBILE SERVICE IN THE DISTRICTS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts in the country approved for providing mobile service;

(b) the time by which the aforesaid service is likely to be provided in the remaining areas; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose alongwith the position in regard to the equipments needed for it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A PRADHAN)

(a) to (c) : Sir, for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the country has been divided into four Metro City Service Areas and 19 Telecom Circle Services Areas (total 23 Service Areas). As per the terms and conditions of the License Agreement for CMTS, an operator for Metro City Service Area is required to cover 90% of the Service Area within one year. In Telecom Circle Service Area an operator is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters in the Service Area within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision.

There is no mandatory requirement for 100% coverage of the Service Area. The operators have also not been instructed to cover specific districts/cities/towns within the Service area. The choice of the areas to be covered within the Service Areas depends on the commercial/business decision of the Licensees. Presently 25 Companies have 78 CMTS licensees in total for providing CMTS in 23 Serviced Areas.

According to the information available, at present CMTS is available in 481 District Headquarters (DHQs) apart from various other towns and cities. The Cellular operators are planning to cover all the DHQs with CMTS in a phased manner as per their own decision. The investment made and equipment required to be installed by a CMTS operator therefore varies according to their business plans. The Government is not allocating any amount for the same.